

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/677,841

Examiner

Pho M. Luu

Applicant(s)

JEONG ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 3/22/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11 and 13-31.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Updated search history.



**ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Allowance

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Amendment, filed 22 March 2006. The changes and remarks disclosed therein were considered.
2. Claims 1-10 and 12 have been canceled.
3. Claims 11 and 13-31 are pending in the application.
4. Claims 11 and 13-31 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to provide:

“activating a plurality of column selection signals to a high voltage provided directly from an external source, apply the plurality of column selection signals to all the column selection transistors and deactivating all the column selection signals” in a stress test method for a flash memory device as claimed in the independent claim 11. Claims 13 and 16 are also allowed because of their dependency on claim 11; or

“deactivating all the column selection signals, turning on selected ones of the column selection transistors in response to a column address and applying a constant voltage to the plurality of bitlines” in a stress test method for a flash memory device as claimed in the independent claim 14. Claim 15 is also allowed because of its dependency on claim 14.

“level shifters configure to generate column selection signals that are applied to gates of the column selection transistors in response to an output of the decoder units, wherein the level shifters are configured to apply a high

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voltage to all the column selection transistors during a stress test in response to the all column selection signal” in a flash memory device as claimed in the independent claim 17. Claims 18-23 are also allowed because of their dependency on claim 17; or

“level shifters configure to generate column selection signals that are applied to gates of the column selection transistors in response to an output of the decoder units, wherein the level shifters are configured to apply a high voltage to all the column selection transistors during a stress test in response to the all column selection signal” as claimed in the independent claim 24. Claims 25-31 are also allowed because of their dependency on claim 24.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Pho M. Luu whose telephone number is 571.272.1876. The examiners can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

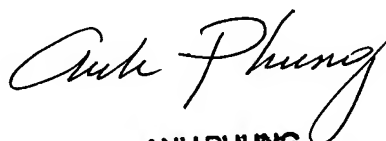
If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Richard Elms, can be reached on 571.272.1869. The official fax number for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306 for all official communications.

The information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PML
18 May 2006


ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER